

All or Nothing

annihilate
aperture
inception
incipient

Key Words
negate
nihilism
overt

renegade
vacuous
vanity
vaunt

LESSON 4

Homo sum; humani nihil a me alienum puto.

I am a man; I think nothing human is alien to me.—TERENCE.

Challenge Word
incipit

INCIPIO, INCIPERE, INCEPI, INCEPTUM <L. "to begin"

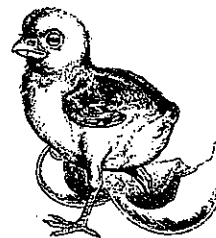
1. **inception** (in səp'shən)
n. The beginning of something.

Since the **inception** of a vaccine for polio, that disease has almost disappeared from the earth.

2. **incipient** (in sĭp'ē ənt)
adj. In its early stages; beginning.

A sore throat and runny nose are the symptoms of an **incipient** cold.

incipiently, *adv.*



Familiar Word
nil

NIHIL <L. "nothing"

3. **annihilate** (ə nī'ə lāt') [*an* = *ad* <L. "to"]
tr. v. To destroy completely.

During the radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*, thousands of listeners thought Martians were about to **annihilate** New Jersey.

annihilable, *adj.*; **annihilation**, *n.*; **annihilator**, *n.*
Synonym: **decimate**

4. **nihilism** (nī'ə līz'əm, nī'hə līz'əm, nē'ə līz əm)
n. The total rejection of religious or moral beliefs.

From the point of view of **nihilism**, any behavior is acceptable since no rules of ethics exist.

nihilist, *n.*; **nihilistic**, *adj.*; **nihility**, *n.*

Familiar Words
deny
negative
negotiate

NEGO, NEGARE, NEGAVI, NEGATUM <L. "to deny"

5. **negate** (nĭ gāt')
tr. v. 1. To disprove; to nullify.

Columbus's voyage to the New World **negated** the theory that the earth was flat.

2. To rule out; to cancel; to repeal.

The legislation allowing eighteen year olds to vote **negated** previous laws that had set the voting age at twenty-one or older.

negation, *n.*



Challenge Words
abnegate
renege

6. **renegade** (rĕn'ĭ gād) [*re* <L. intensifier]
n. One who deserts a group, cause, faith, etc.; an outlaw.

When Democrats lost the election, many former supporters turned **renegade** and joined the Republicans.

adj. Like a renegade; traitorous.

Loyal troops crushed the revolt and imprisoned **renegade** officers.

VANUS <L. "empty"
VACUUS <L. "empty"

7. **vacuous** (vāk'yōō əs)
adj. Empty, especially of meaning or purpose.

Familiar Words

avoid
evacuate
vain
vacation
vacuum
void

Educators often criticize television cartoons for kids as **vacuous** entertainment.

vacuity, *n.*

8. **vanity** (văn'ĩ tē)
n. 1. Conceit, especially about one's appearance.

Despite the **vanity** of the Spanish royal family, Francisco Goya painted their portraits showing all their physical and moral shortcomings.

2. Something worthless or useless.

Buddhism teaches that human ambitions are **vanity**.

3. A dressing table.

A **vanity** usually has an attached mirror and many drawers.



9. **vaunt** (vônt, vōnt)
tr. v. To boast; to brag about.

Gracious winners do not **vaunt** their victories.

n. A boast.

Parents' **vaunts** about their possessions often embarrass their children.

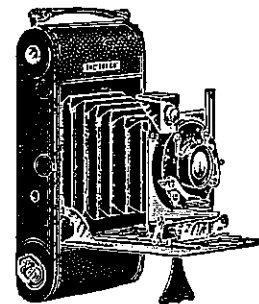
vaunted, *adj.*

Familiar Word
overture

APERIO, APERIRE, APERUI,
APERTUM <L. "to open"

10. **aperture** (ăp'ər chər)
n. An opening, especially one that admits light.

The photographer adjusted the **aperture** of the lens to let in more light.



Challenge Word
apéritif

11. **overt** (ō vûrt', ō'vûrt')
adj. Done or shown openly.

Their **overt** hostility gave us little hope for a reconciliation.

overtly, *adv.*